

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 200727

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 13761 ACTION SECSTATE AUGUST 23.

QUOTE S E C R E T BONN 13761

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS LONDON, PARIS, LAGOS AND PRETORIA

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM SF FR GW UK US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

REF: STATE 200248 (TOSEC 90072)

1. CHARGE BRIEFED VAN WELL AUGUST 29 AS PER REFTEL,
PARA 2. CHARGE DREW ON REFTELS PARAS 3 AND 4 TO STRESS
THE NEED FOR THE FRG TO PROCEED WITH A DEMARCHE.

2. VAN WELL SAID THE FRG WOULD FIRST AWAIT VORSTER'S
SPEECH AUGUST 24. THEIR AMBASSADOR IN PRETORIA WOULD
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THEN BE INSTRUCTED TO FOLLOW UP ON VORSTER'S SPEECH BY
REQUESTING FURTHER INFORMATION ON SAG INTENTIONS IN THE
NUCLEAR FIELD. THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO
SPEAK OUT CLEARLY ON NPT, WHICH WAS THE MAIN POINT OF
EMPHASIS FOR THE FRG WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS. VAN WELL
RECALLED THAT GENSCHER HAD STRESSED THE NPT IN HIS
CONVERSATION WITH BOTHA EARLIER THIS MONTH, ARGUING THAT

JOINING THE NPT WAS THE BEST MEANS FOR THE SAG TO COUNTER CHARGES ABOUT THEIR NUCLEAR INTENTIONS.

3. VAN WELL NOTED THAT GENSCHER HAD MADE A PRESS STATEMENT EARLIER IN THE DAY SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON FRG CONCERN OVER SAG NUCLEAR POLICY. VAN WELL SAID GENSCHER HAD BEEN DISPLEASED BY A DPA REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FRG WAS NOT AS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED AS WERE THE BRITISH AND FRENCH (DPA HAD CITED THE STRONG BRITISH AND FRENCH STATEMENTS OVER THE WEEKEND AND NOTED THE ABSENCE OF A COMPARABLE FRG STATEMENT).

4. VAN WELL REFERRED TO THE SPEECH WHICH THE FRG REPRESENTATIVE IN LAGOS, VON DOHNANYI (MINISTER OF STATE IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE), IS DUE TO MAKE AUGUST 24 OR 25. VAN WELL SAID IT WAS PLANNED FOR VON DOHNANYI TO PROPOSE THE INCLUSION OF AN APPEAL TO THE SAG TO JOIN THE NPT IN THE CONFERENCE DECLARATION. VAN WELL WONDERED WHETHER VON DOHNANYI SHOULD STILL INCLUDE A PASSAGE TO THIS EFFECT IN HIS SPEECH AND SAID HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THE MATTER FURTHER WITH GENSCHER.

5. ALSO ON LAGOS, VAN WELL ASKED THE CHARGE TO PASS A REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG BRIEF VON DOHNANYI (AND THE BRITISH AND FRENCH) ON THE LINES OF REFTEL, PARA 2. VAN WELL COMMENTED THAT
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THE FRG HAD NOT BRIEFED ITS DELEGATION ON RECENT US CONTACTS WITH THE SAG IN VIEW OF OUR REQUEST TO HOLD THE INFORMATION CLOSE.

6. FINALLY, VAN WELL REFERRED TO THE MATTER OF ANSWERING BREZHNEV'S ORAL MESSAGE TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON SAG NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS. HE SAID HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE COORDINATION AMONG THE US, BRITISH, FRENCH, AND THE FRG ON BOTH THE TIMING AND THE CONTENTS OF THE RESPONSES. VAN WELL SAID HE WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF A RESPONSE BY THE FRG AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE GERMANS HAD RECEIVED SOME BRITISH IDEAS ON HOW TO REPLY.
MEEHAN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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